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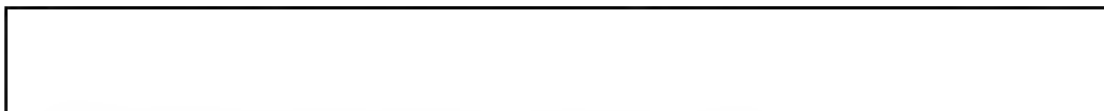
WESTERN EUROPE – CANADA – INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS



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Labor Policy Dispute May Bring Cabinet Shakeup
in Spain

1 | The Spanish cabinet is involved in a policy row which may trigger the departure of Labor Minister Licinio de la Fuente and bring other cabinet changes as well. Prime Minister Arias may shed light on how he will handle the dispute in a major policy speech scheduled for tonight.

2 | The labor minister reportedly submitted his resignation in disagreement over a proposed labor law that would allow the dismissal of striking workers. Such a law would be a great defeat for his effort to obtain a decree granting a modified right-to-strike, which he has been advocating to lessen labor tensions.

2 | Another factor in his resignation may be the determined effort he faces to bring his ministry's Social Security Institute under scrutiny of the finance ministry. There have been rumors of possible misuse of government funds at the institute.

3 | Should De la Fuente, who is also a deputy prime minister, depart without getting a right-to-strike law, this would be a victory for those who advocate a hard line in dealing with political and labor unrest. This group won out last October when the information minister was dismissed in a dispute over press freedom. The then finance minister also resigned in protest. Another cabinet shakeup at this time would be a further blow to Arias' efforts to maintain his modest liberalization program in the face of ultra right opposition.

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Italian Labor Sets Nationwide Strike of US
Military Bases

1 / Tomorrow, US military bases in Italy will be hit for the first time with a day-long nationwide strike by their Italian employees.

The unions have three principal demands:

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- the abolition or change of a 1957 agreement which, in effect, prohibits collective bargaining between US forces and Italian labor.
 - renewal of an Italian law which guarantees government re-employment to workers discharged by US forces.
 - an upward revision of wage adjustments linked to the cost-of-living index.

2 { The strike comes in the midst of numerous other work stoppages by the major Italian unions and does not appear to be motivated primarily by anti-US sentiment. It probably reflects, instead, labor's tendency to credit the recent escalation of strike activity for impressive gains scored in the latest round of negotiations with Italian employers. The unions had made little progress under their previous policy--followed until last September--of holding strike activity to a minimum.

2 { It will be difficult to resist labor demands, particularly on the cost-of-living question. Italian employers, in an effort to secure labor peace, have given in to most of the other unions on the cost-of-living issue.

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Canada Sees Progress in Law of the Sea Conference

Ottawa is pleased with the progress made at last year's Law of the Sea Conference in Caracas, especially the possibility that Canada can get full control over fishing rights up to 200 miles off its coasts.

External Affairs Minister MacEachen, in a speech delivered last Tuesday, said that the most evident progress at Caracas was toward establishment of the 200 mile economic concept. Canada, in his view, could thus acquire the exclusive right to manage both mineral and living resources within that zone, including the right to reserve for Canadian fishermen that portion of the total resource which they have the capacity to catch in any given year. He projected this theory to mean that, as Canada's fishing capacity increases, so would its total percentage of the catch--theoretically up to 100 percent.

Although this did not mean immediate exclusion of all foreign fishing vessels from the 200 mile zone, MacEachen made clear that it does mean control of foreign fishing on Canadian terms.

The minister indicated that, at the forthcoming Geneva round of the Law of the Sea Conference, Ottawa would push for recognition of its rights to all natural resources beyond 200 miles to the limit of the continental margin--some additional 400,000 square miles of ocean mostly on the east coast.

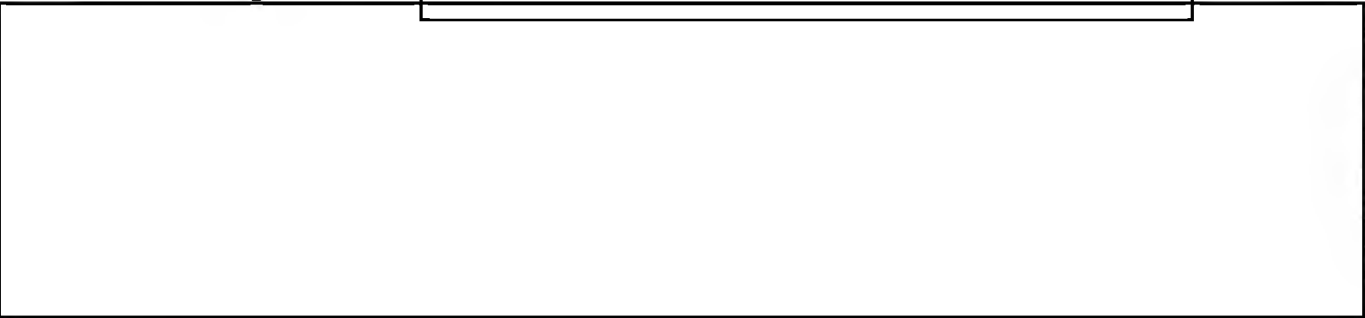
MacEachen also believes substantial progress was made on another Canadian goal--establishing the concept of the international area of the oceans

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as a zone reserved for the benefit of mankind. He feels there is a growing realization by all nations that the old unfettered freedom of the seas attitude is over.

2 Ottawa's position on Law of the Sea issues has tended increasingly to reflect the views of the less developed coastal states. Its policies on pollution controls and unfettered passage of straits as well as the issues raised by MacEachen are increasingly at odds with those of the major maritime powers.



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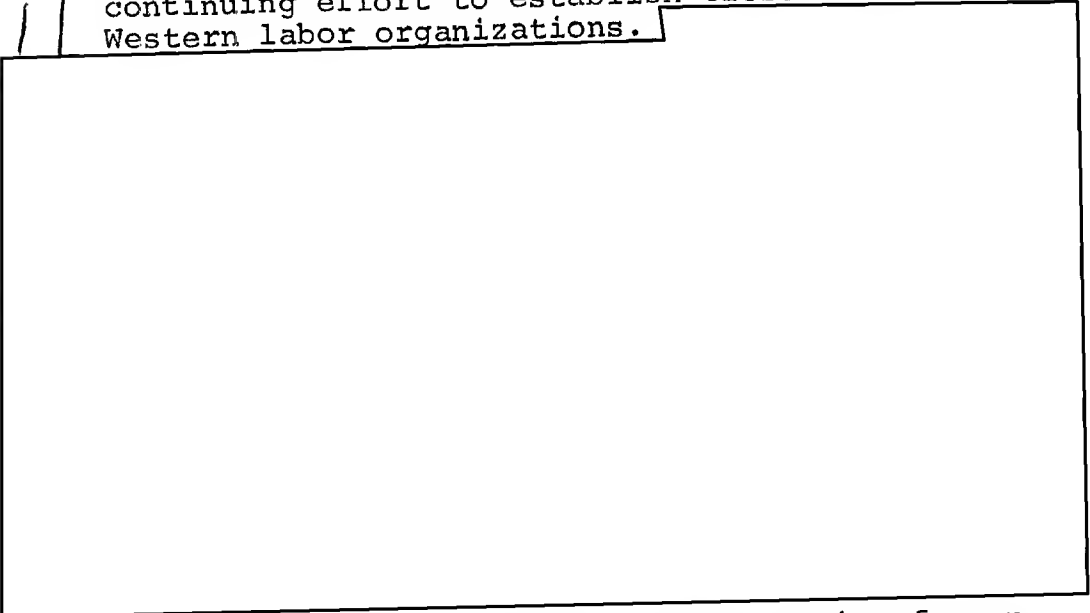
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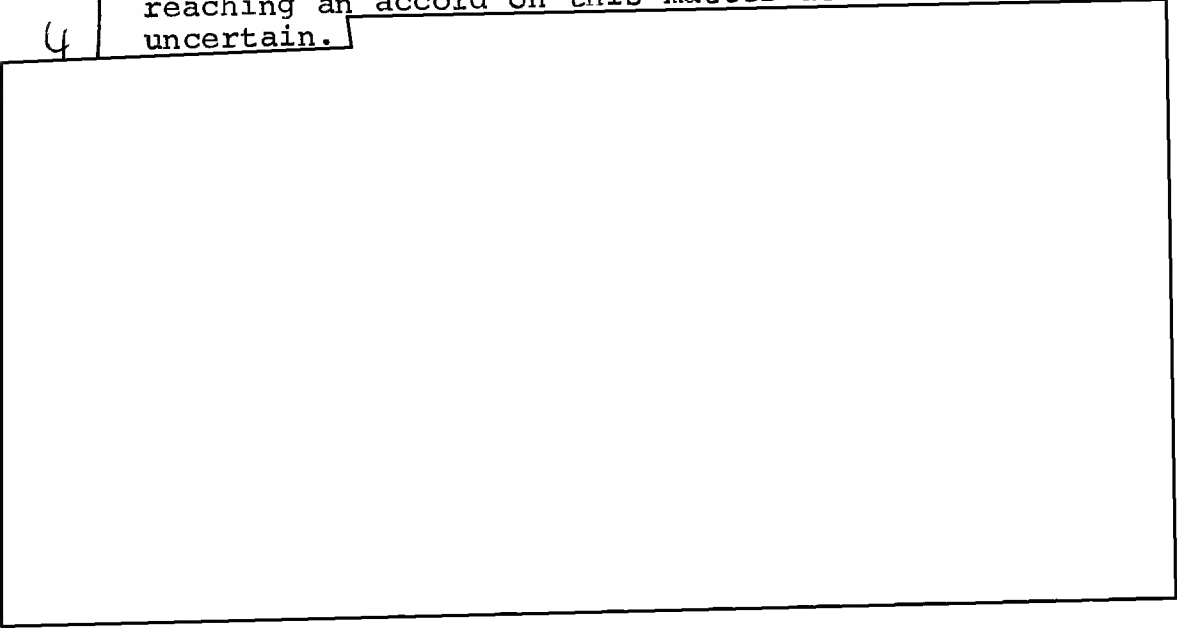
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1 | The Soviets--publicly as well as privately--
view the Conference as an important step in their
continuing effort to establish closer ties with
Western labor organizations.



3 | The Soviets have also been pressing for an
4 | agreement to establish a permanent organizational
framework to accommodate further labor contacts
outside of the ILO context. The prospects for
reaching an accord on this matter at Geneva are
uncertain.



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East-West Labor Meeting To Convene in Geneva

Labor federations from both Western Europe and the Communist states will be represented at the second East-West Trade Union Conference that convenes in Geneva on February 28-March 1. The Conference is considered a "private" meeting, under the auspices of the four European worker representatives on the Governing Board of the International Labor Organization (ILO). The sessions will be closed to the press and public, as was the case during the first Geneva conference a year ago.

During numerous bilateral discussions with European labor leaders in recent months, the Soviets have made a determined effort to broaden the agenda to include political subjects. British and West German trade unionists, among others, have assured US officials that they are adamantly opposed to allowing the meeting to be transformed into a platform for Soviet political purposes. Accordingly, the agenda is reportedly limited to technical labor matters, such as the humanization of the working environment and the protection of workers from the effects of toxic substances.

The meetings have an implicit political significance, however, given the prominence of the participants, who include leading West European trade union figures as well as the boss of the Soviet trade union organization. The European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC), the World Confederation of Labor, and the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions (ICFTU) will send observers. It is likely that the communist labor international, the World Federation of Trade Unions, will also be represented.

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